

Questionnaire gathered data on the following topics:

- prevalence of smoking cigarettes and other tobacco products
- environmental tobacco smoke (ETC)
- cessation of cigarette smoking
- access to cigarettes and other tobacco products
- knowledge and attitudes of young people towards cigarette smoking
- tobacco related school curriculum
- role of media and advertising on young people's of cigarettes

Data Collection

A letter of invitation was sent to headmaster of each selected school inviting them to participate in the survey. Children's parents in the selected classes were informed by letter and were asked to allow their child to participate in the survey. Survey procedures were designed to protect the students' privacy by allowing for anonymous and voluntary participation. The trained field staff (1 school doctor, 6 school nurses, one health worker and three students) administrated the questionnaire in the classroom. Students recorded their responses directly on an answer sheet that could be scanned by a computer.

Analysis

A weighting factor was applied to each student record to adjust for non-response and for the varying probabilities of selection. SUDAAN and EpiInfo were used to compute weighted estimates and 95% confidence intervals for the estimates. Statistical differences included in this report were determined by comparing the range of the 95% confidence intervals for the estimates. If the range for the 95% CI did not overlap then the difference was statistically significant.

Ethical Approval

Ethical commission of Ministry of Health of Republic Slovenia approved the GYTS survey in Slovenia.

Results

Response rate

For the GYTS Slovenia 2003, 4727 questionnaires were completed in 57 schools. For schools overall response was 95,0% (57 of the 60 sampled schools participated) and for students 89,1% (4727 of the 5307 sampled students completed usable questionnaires). Overall response rate was 84,6 %.

Prevalence

Almost two-third (66,4%) of students had ever smoked cigarettes, and 26,2% initiated smoke before age 10 (TABLE 1A). Boys significantly more likely initiate to smoke than girls before age of 10.

Almost three in ten students currently smoke cigarettes (28,5%). Over one-fifth (21,2%) of current smokers used hand-rolled cigarettes, with boys significantly more likely than girls smoke hand-rolled cigarettes. Over 90% of current smokers used manufactured cigarettes.

Table 1A: Percent of students who smoke cigarettes, SLOVENIA , GYTS, 2002/03

Category	Ever Smoked Cigarettes, Even One or Two Puffs	Age of Initiation <10, Ever Smoked Cigarettes	Current Use	Current Cigarette Smokers who Smoke:	
			Cigarettes -- Total	Hand-rolled cigarettes	Manufactured cigarettes
Total	66.4 (±3.5)	26.2 (±2.6)	28.5 (±4.7)	21.2 (±5.6)	92.5 (±1.8)
Sex					
Boy	66.5 (±3.8)	29.9 (±3.2)	25.4 (±4.1)	29.3 (±6.8)	89.6 (±2.7)
Girl	65.7 (±4.6)	23.8 (± 2.6)	29.9 (±6.0)	14.3 (±4.7)	94.5 (±1.8)
Region					
Ljubljana	63.5 (±5.8)	26.4 (±2.6)	28.4 (±7.8)	25.2 (±9.4)	92.6 (±3.1)
East	71.5 (± 5.5)	26.6 (±4.4)	32.8 (±8.3)	18.7 (±9.1)	92.1 (±3.1)
West	61.1 (± 5.6)	25.5 (±4.4)	22.9 (±5.9)	23.3 (±5.0)	93.4 (±1.5)

Table 1B: Percent of students who use other tobacco products, SLOVENIA , GYTS, 2002/03

Category	Current Use				
	Other Tobacco Products	Cigars	Chew, snuff, dip	Pipe	Any Current Tobacco Use – Cigarettes + Other
Total	9.5 (±1.5)	7.7 (±1.3)	3.1 (±0.8)	2.1 (±0.6)	29.1 (±4.4)
Sex					
Boy	11.6 (±2.0)	9.7 (±1.9)	3.5 (±1.3)	2.5 (±0.7)	27.1 (±3.7)
Girl	6.7 (±1.5)	5.3 (± 1.2)	2.0 (±0.8)	1.4 (±0.8)	29.3 (±5.9)
Region					
Ljubljana	10.5 (±4.0)	8.0 (±3.5)	3.2 (±2.0)	3.2 (±2.2)	30.1 (±7.5)
East	9.8 (± 2.2)	8.7 (±2.1)	2.9 (±1.4)	1.9 (±0.8)	32.4 (±7.6)
West	8.5 (± 2.3)	6.1 (±1.7)	3.2 (±1.0)	1.9 (±0.7)	24.1 (±5.7)

Almost one in ten of students use to smoke other tobacco products (9,5%), with boys significantly more likely than girls (TABLE 1B). Most of them smoke cigars (7,7%), with boys significantly more likely than girls and more in Ljubljana and East region than West. Students also use chew (3,1%), also more likely boys, and smoke tobacco in pipe (2,1%).

One seventh of current smokers (15%) always feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning (TABLE 1C). Almost three in ten (27,3%) never-smokers indicate that are likely to initiate smoking during the next year; with girls (31,0%) significantly more likely than boys (23,2%).

Table 1C: Percent of students reporting smoking dependency and susceptibility,
SLOVENIA , GYTS , 2002/03

Category	Percent of current smokers who always have or feel like having a cigarette first thing in the morning	Percent of never smokers likely to initiate smoking during the next year
Total	15.0 (± 2.6)	27.3 (± 2.9)
Sex		
Boy	17.9 (± 3.2)	23.2 (± 3.6)
Girl	13.7 (± 3.0)	31.0 (± 3.9)
Region		
Ljubljana	17.6 (± 6.2)	29.3 (± 4.4)
East	15.5 (± 4.2)	29.2 (± 4.5)
West	12.2 (± 1.9)	24.5 (± 5.0)

School curriculum

During the past school year, 60,5% of students had class where the danger of smoking was taught; less than half (45,5%) had classes that discussed reasons why people their age smoke and less then half (46,5%) had classes that thought about the effects of smoking (TABLE 2). Ljubljana had significantly lower level of students (43,3%) have been thought about tobacco than the other regions.

Table 2: School Curriculum, SLOVENIA , GYTS , 2002/03

Category	During past school year, percent had class where taught dangers of smoking	During past school year, percent had class where discussed reasons why people their age smoke	During past school year, percent had class where taught about the effects of smoking
Total	60.5 (± 5.1)	45.5 (± 3.6)	46.5 (± 4.7)
Sex			
Boy	60.1 (± 5.3)	43.7 (± 4.3)	46.2 (± 4.3)
Girl	61.0 (± 5.8)	47.2 (± 3.8)	46.9 (± 5.7)
Region			
Ljubljana	43.3 (± 6.1)	29.0 (± 6.4)	30.8 (± 5.2)
East	65.3 (± 7.8)	52.1 (± 5.6)	52.7 (± 6.3)
West	62.8 (± 9.6)	44.9 (± 6.8)	46.2 (± 10.3)

Cessation

Almost half (41,6%) of current smokers desire to stop, and 68,5% of current smokers tried to stop in last year (TABLE 3). Less than half (46,6%) of students received help or advice to stop smoking.

Table 3: Cessation, SLOVENIA , GYTS, 2002/03

Category	Current Smokers		
	Percent desire to stop	Percent tried to stop this year	Received Help/Advice to Stop Smoking
<u>Total</u>	41.6 (\pm 4.2)	68.5 (\pm 2.4)	46.6 (\pm 3.3)
<u>Sex</u>			
Boy	42.8 (\pm 5.2)	66.3 (\pm 3.4)	50.5 (\pm 6.0)
Girl	40.8 (\pm 6.9)	69.4 (\pm 4.9)	44.4 (\pm 4.7)
<u>Region</u>			
Ljubljana	37.0 (\pm 8.2)	66.2 (\pm 3.3)	41.6 (\pm 6.7)
East	41.4 (\pm 6.6)	69.5 (\pm 3.6)	47.9 (\pm 3.2)
West	44.7 (\pm 6.3)	68.2 (\pm 4.8)	47.2 (\pm 8.9)

Environmental tobacco smoke exposure

At home

Current smokers were significantly more (84,8%) than never smokers (52,2%) exposed to tobacco smoke from others in their homes: from fathers (47,6% vs. 29,5%); from mothers (42,9% vs. 23,6%); from brothers and sisters (38,6% vs. 11,0%); from best friends (44,2% vs. 6,3%) and from others (21,8% vs. 47,9%). These differences held by gender and region for all comparisons (TABLE 4A). Girls who currently smoke (46,3%) were significantly more than boys (38,1%) to be exposed to smoke from mothers.

Table 4A: Environmental Tobacco Smoke, SLOVENIA , GYTS, 2002/03

Category	Exposed to smoke in their home		Exposed to smoke from father in their home		Exposed to smoke from mother in their home		Exposed to smoke from sister/brother in their home		Exposed to smoke from best friend in their home		Exposed to smoke from others in their home	
	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers
Total	52.2 (±3.0)	84.8 (±2.8)	29.5 (±3.1)	47.6 (±3.1)	23.6 (±3.2)	42.9 (±2.5)	11.0 (±2.6)	38.6 (±2.8)	6.3 (±1.4)	44.2 (±6.2)	47.9 (±3.3)	71.8 (±3.0)
Sex												
Bo y	53.1 (±4.5)	81.6 (±4.3)	29.5 (±5.2)	44.8 (±6.0)	26.6 (±3.9)	38.1 (±3.7)	11.9 (±4.6)	40.1 (±4.8)	7.7 (±2.4)	41.9 (±6.1)	48.2 (±4.1)	67.4 (±4.4)
Girl	51.6 (±2.8)	86.7 (±4.1)	29.4 (±2.9)	49.2 (±3.3)	21.2 (±3.9)	46.3 (±3.5)	10.5 (±2.8)	38.3 (±3.9)	5.2 (±2.2)	46.0 (±7.4)	48.1 (±4.0)	75.2 (±4.2)
Region												
Ljubljana	51.0 (±4.3)	81.0 (±4.9)	28.1 (±3.6)	48.7 (±6.4)	24.7 (±5.7)	26.4 (±7.0)	8.9 (±2.7)	32.8 (±7.7)	5.6 (±2.1)	38.7 (±8.5)	45.4 (±3.0)	69.6 (±3.3)
East	53.4 (±4.8)	87.8 (±3.5)	28.9 (±6.8)	48.0 (±5.0)	24.6 (±4.6)	42.7 (±3.4)	13.4 (±4.9)	41.7 (±4.4)	7.2 (±2.2)	47.7 (±10.0)	49.6 (±5.7)	74.2 (±4.0)
West	51.7 (±5.1)	81.5 (±4.7)	30.7 (±3.6)	46.1 (±3.9)	22.1 (±5.6)	43.9 (±3.9)	9.6 (±3.8)	36.2 (±4.5)	5.8 (±2.6)	40.8 (±7.3)	47.5 (±5.3)	68.7 (±6.0)

At public places

Current smokers (92,4%) were significantly more than never smokers (84,3%) exposed to smoke in public places; a difference that held by gender and in Ljubljana (TABLE 4B).

Girls who never smoked (84,1%) were significantly more to be exposed to smoke than boys. Never smokers (84,3%) were significantly more likely than current smokers (41,9%) to think smoking should be banned from public places; a difference that held for gender and region. Never smokers (58,8%) were significantly more likely than current smokers (41,6%) to think smoke from others is harmful for them; difference that held by gender and in the west in east region of Slovenia.

Table 4B: Environmental Tobacco Smoke, SLOVENIA , GYTS, 2002/03

Category	Exposed to smoke from others in public places		Percent think smoking should be banned from public places		Definitely think smoke from others is harmful to them	
	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers	Never Smokers	Current Smokers
Total	84.1 (± 1.7)	92.4 (± 3.2)	84.3 (± 3.0)	41.9 (± 3.8)	58.8 (± 4.0)	41.6 (± 4.0)
Sex						
Boy	80.9 (± 2.9)	88.1 (± 5.4)	83.9 (± 3.3)	43.7 (± 5.4)	58.4 (± 4.5)	42.2 (± 5.4)
Girl	86.6 (± 2.2)	95.1 (± 2.6)	84.1 (± 3.3)	40.2 (± 4.2)	58.9 (± 4.9)	40.7 (± 3.8)
Region						
Ljubljana	86.3 (± 3.9)	95.3 (± 2.7)	85.5 (± 4.4)	37.8 (± 7.5)	55.0 (± 6.0)	45.0 (± 4.7)
East	82.7 (± 2.1)	82.61 (± 5.7)	82.6 (± 5.7)	42.6 (± 5.8)	56.6 (± 7.1)	38.6 (± 5.8)
West	84.4 (± 3.2)	84.4 (± 3.2)	85.5 (± 4.1)	43.3 (± 6.8)	62.8 (± 6.1)	45.4 (± 6.6)

Knowledge and attitudes

Almost one fourth of never smokers (23,0%) and 18,1% of current smokers think boys who smoke have more friends (TABLE 5). The percentage who think girls who smoke have more friends is significantly lower than among never smokers (15%). The percentage of current smokers who think boys and girls who smoke are more attractive than those who don't is significantly higher than for never smokers.

Table 5: Knowledge and Attitudes, SLOVENIA , GYTS, 2002

Category	Think boys who smoke have more friends		Think girls who smoke have more friends		Think smoking makes boys look more attractive		Think smoking makes girls look more attractive	
	Never Smokers KAPNS_Q 24 Table 57	Current Smokers KAPCS_Q2 4 Table 58	Never Smokers KAPNS_Q25 Table 59	Current Smokers KAPCS_Q25 Table 60	Never Smokers KAPNS_Q27 Table 63	Current Smokers KAPCS_Q27 Table 64	Never Smokers KAPNS_Q28 Table 65	Current Smokers KAPCS_Q28 Table 66
Total	23.0 (± 2.9)	18.1 (± 4.3)	15.8 (± 2.4)	13.7 (± 3.4)	7.0 (± 2.0)	13.1 (± 2.9)	5.0 (± 1.3)	11.3 (± 2.3)
Sex								
Boy	18.5 (± 3.5)	15.8 (± 6.2)	14.6 (± 3.7)	12.7 (± 5.6)	6.9 (± 2.1)	10.6 (± 3.5)	5.9 (± 1.8)	12.9 (± 2.9)
Girl	25.8 (± 4.1)	18.7 (± 4.8)	15.9 (± 3.7)	13.8 (± 2.9)	6.9 (± 3.0)	14.3 (± 4.8)	4.1 (± 2.3)	9.7 (± 3.7)
Region								
Ljubljana	19.1 (± 5.1)	15.3 (± 3.3)	12.8 (± 3.7)	9.7 (± 3.2)	4.2 (± 1.8)	9.5 (± 3.7)	4.2 (± 2.3)	7.5 (± 2.9)
East	26.8 (± 5.3)	19.8 (± 8.0)	20.6 (± 4.4)	16.2 (± 6.5)	8.4 (± 4.5)	14.2 (± 5.1)	6.1 (± 2.6)	13.1 (± 3.9)
West	21.0	16.7 (± 3.5)	12.4 (± 3.8)	11.4 (± 2.3)	6.9 (± 1.9)	13.3 (± 3.8)	4.3 (± 1.3)	10.1 (± 3.4)

	(±4.0)						
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Media and advertising

Anti-tobacco messages

Over 60 percent of students have seen anti-smoking media message on television (65,6%), at the cinema (61,5%); and almost half have seen anti-smoking message in newspaper or magazines (52,5%), on billboards (51,3%) and on posters (50,6%) (TABLE 6A). Over 40 percents have heard anti-smoking messages in the radio (41,6%). And, 57,6% saw anti-smoking messages at the sport events. Exposure to anti-smoking media message on TV, radio and cinema was significantly lower in Ljubljana than in other regions.

Table 6A: Media and Advertising, SLOVENIA , GYTS, 2002

Category	Percent Saw Anti-Smoking Media Messages on Television MEDIA_Q59 Table 120	Percent Heard Anti-Smoking Media Messages on Radio MEDIA_Q60 Table 121	Percent Saw Anti-Smoking Media Messages on Billboards MEDIA_Q61 Table 122	Percent Saw Anti-Smoking Media Messages on Posters MEDIA_Q62 Table 123	Percent Saw Anti-Smoking Media Messages in Newspapers or Magazines MEDIA_Q63 Table 124	Percent Saw Anti-Smoking Media Messages at the Cinema MEDIA_Q64 Table 125	Percent Saw Anti-Smoking Media Messages at Sports Events, Fairs, Concerts or Community Events MEDIA_Q65 Table 36
<u>Total</u>	65.6 (±2.1)	41.6 (±2.5)	51.3 (±2.2)	50.6 (±2.5)	52.5 (±1.9)	61.5 (±4.6))	57.6 (±1.9)
<u>Sex</u>							
Boy	66.2 (±2.7)	43.5 (±3.1)	52.3 (±2.7)	50.1 (±2.4)	50.6 (±2.7)	61.2 (±5.1)	58.4 (±2.7)
Girl	64.8(±2.5)	39.4 (±3.4)	50.6 (±3.5)	51.0 (±3.5)	53.8 (±2.7)	61.6 (±6.2)	57.0 (±2.8)
<u>Region</u>							
Ljubljana	56.9 (±3.9)	30.6 (±4.7)	52.9 (±4.5)	49.9 (±3.6)	47.5 (±4.6)	45.2 (±6.0)	55.2 (±3.7)
East	68.5 (±3.9)	46.1 (±4.1)	53.4 (±3.1)	52.8 (±4.2)	55.0 (±3.1)	69.0 (±7.8)	59.1 (±3.4)
West	66.0 (±2.0)	40.6 (±3.1)	47.8 (±4.0)	47.9 (±4.0)	51.6 (±2.8)	56.9 (±5.2)	56.7 (±2.12.1)

Table 6B: Media and Advertising, SLOVENIA , GYTS, 2002

Category	Percent Saw Pro-Tobacco Messages on Television MEDIA_Q68 Table 117	Percent Saw Pro-Tobacco Messages on Billboards MEDIA_Q69 Table 28	Percent Saw Pro-Tobacco Messages on Newspapers/Magazines MEDIA_Q70 Table 29	Percent Saw Pro-Tobacco Messages at Sporting Events MEDIA_Q71 Table 126	Percent Saw Pro-Tobacco Messages at Cinema MEDIA_Q72 Table 127	Percent Saw Pro-Tobacco Messages at Community Events/Social Gatherings MEDIA_Q73 Table 129
<u>Total</u>	44.8 (±2.3)	53.8 (±2.1)	59.5 (±1.8)	51.1 (±2.2)	39.3 (±2.1)	41.0 (±2.4)
<u>Sex</u>						
Boy	48.1 (±2.8)	55.1 (±2.8)	58.1 (±2.2)	54.4 (±2.7)	40.9 (±2.5)	41.2 (±2.3)
Girl	40.8 (±2.4)	52.4 (±3.0)	60.4 (±2.3)	48.1 (±2.9)	37.1 (±3.0)	40.4 (±3.2)
<u>Region</u>						
Ljubljana	41.5 (±2.7)	66.1 (±2.2)	62.9 (±3.2)	53.0 (±2.8)	42.0 (±2.2)	45.4 (±3.1)
East	45.8 (±4.3)	49.6 (±3.5)	58.8 (±3.1)	49.7 (±3.6)	36.5 (±2.9)	39.0 (±3.8)
West	45.1 (±2.5)	53.3 (±2.9)	58.8 (±2.2)	52.3 (±3.5)	42.0 (±4.1)	41.7 (±4.3)

Pro-tobacco messages

Almost half of students saw pro-tobacco messages in newspaper and magazines (59,5%); on billboards (53,8%) or at sports events (51,1%) (TABLE 6B). Exposure to pro-tobacco messages on billboard was significantly higher in Ljubljana (66,1%) than other regions. Boys (54,4%) were significantly more likely than girls (48,1%) to see pro-tobacco messages at sport events. Almost four in ten students saw pro-tobacco messages on TV (44,8%); at the social events (41,0%) or at the cinema (39,3%). Boys were significantly more likely than girls to see pro-tobacco messages on TV.

Current smokers (29,3%) were significantly more than never smokers (14,1%) to have an object with cigarette brand logo on it.; difference that held by gender and region (TABLE 6C).

Current smokers (16,1%) were significantly more likely than never smokers (4,7%) to have been offered free cigarettes by tobacco company representative; a difference that held by gender and region.

Access and availability

Almost one-tenth current smokers (8,6%) usually smoke at home (TABLE 7).

More than half of current smokers (64,6%) purchased cigarettes in a store, and 93,0% of current smokers bought cigarettes and was not refused because of their age, significantly more girls (96,2%) than boys (85,5%).

Table7: Access and Availability, SLOVENIA - , GYTS, 2002

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Category	Percent Current Smokers who Usually Smoke at Home ACCESSCS_Q39A Table 15	Percent Current Smokers who Purchased Cigarettes in a Store ACCESS_Q12 Table 16	Percent Current Smokers Who Bought Cigarettes in a Store Who Were Not Refused Because of Their Age ACCESS_Q1218 Table 17
Total	8.6 (± 2.4)	64.6 (± 5.7)	93.0 (± 2.8)
Sex			
Boy	8.4 (± 3.8)	67.3 (± 4.9)	88.5 (± 4.6)
Girl	9.0 (± 2.6)	62.5 (± 7.5)	96.2 (± 2.9)
<u>Region</u>			
Ljubljana	5.0 (± 2.3)	67.4 (± 9.7)	94.9 (± 1.7)
East	9.6 (± 3.9)	65.7 (± 9.0)	93.3 (± 4.2)
West	9.0 (± 3.9)	60.6 (± 7.9)	91.0 (± 6.2)

* < 35 cases in the denominator

Discussion, Conclusions, and Recommendations

Tobacco use

Tobacco smoking is not only the behaviour of adult people, more and more is in use among children. Children, young people are still growing up – physically and emotionally and socially, and the harm of tobacco smoke is even more unpredictable.

The results of this survey show us that almost one-third (28,5%) among 13-15 years old children in Slovenia are current smokers, 26,2% had initiated to smoke before age of 10 and almost two-third –66,4% had ever smoked cigarettes. There are 15% of 13-15 years old reported that they always felt like having a cigarette first time in the morning. Almost one-third never smokers indicated that are likely to initiate smoking during the next year, significantly more likely girls than boys.

Cessation

There were 41,6% current smoker that desire to stop and 68,5% current smokers tried to stop in last year. Only half of them received help.

Environmental tobacco exposure

Exposure of young people to tobacco smoke is harmful. The students were exposed to tobacco smoke at home from closest relatives and at public places. Current smokers more (84,8 %) and also half of never smokers (52,2%) were exposed to tobacco smoke at home and 92,4% of current smokers and 84,1% of never smokers, significantly more girls never smokers (86,6%) than boys (80,9%) were exposed to smoke in public places. Never smokers (84,3%) were significantly more likely that current smokers (41,9%) to think smoking should be banned from public places; a difference that held for gender and region.

Knowledge and attitudes

The percentage of current smokers (11,3%) who think boys and girls who smoke are